

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed January 18, 2008. Claims 1-18 are presently pending, of which, claims 6 and 12 have been amended herein, and claim 19 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 10 are recited in independent form. Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Allowed Claims

Applicant hereby acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-18.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants also note with appreciation the Examiners indication of allowability of claims 6 and 12 if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to claim 6, the Office Action stated that claim 6 was vague since it is unclear how the resistor can alternatively be connected to the strain gauge or a previously unclaimed temperature compensated transducer since the resistor had already been connected to the strain

gauge in claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 6 in a manner which is believed will overcome said rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of said rejection is respectfully requested.

With regard to claim 12, the Office Action stated that it is unclear how the recited means of claim 12 relates to any of the previous recited elements of the instrument since it lacks any relationship to the strain gauge. Applicant has amended claim 12 in a manner which is believed will overcome said rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of said rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. (WO/9639086) in view of Lebouitz et al. (6,494,882) and Burek (6,361,532).

Claim 19 has been canceled herein. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and/or amendments, reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-18 is earnestly solicited.

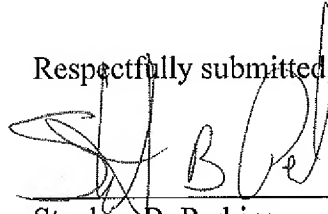
Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket: 2854 (203-3081 PCT US)

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) that may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s), to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S B Perkins', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: Feb 11, 2008

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